NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 11, 1999

Asteroid 8356 named for Meenakshi Wadhwa

Earlier this year, Asteroid 8356 was named for **Meenakshi Wadhwa** (Assistant Curator, Meteoritics) by approval of the International Astronomical Union. (8356) Wadhwa, as the asteroid is now known, is a Mars-crosser that may someday impact on Mars, and has an absolute magnitude of 12.8 (i.e., large enough to produce a good-sized crater!). Asteroid (8356) Wadhwa was discovered by astronomers Gene and Carolyn Shoemaker, who are also credited with the discovery of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that impacted Jupiter in 1994. The official citation published by the IAU states that Meenakshi's "studies of the microdistribution of trace elements in all known martian meteorites have led to a better understanding of the origin of these rocks and of the igneous history of planet Mars. Her use of extinct and long-lived radioisotopes to decipher the chronology of meteorites is bringing new insights into the formation of a variety of objects from different asteroidal bodies. As curator of meteorites, minerals and gems at The Field Museum of Natural History, she is actively involved in public education about meteorites and their parent asteroids." Congratulations, Meenakshi!

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVITED!

Scott Weidensaul, author of *Living on the Wind*
Sunday, June 13
2 p.m.

Field Museum staff and volunteers are encouraged to join author Scott Weidensaul as he recounts the migration habits of birds over the Western Hemisphere, the one truly unifying natural phenomenon in the world. Copies of his new book *Living on the Wind* will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture, Sunday, June 13 at 2 p.m.

Submitted by **Randell Strickland**

FIELD NOTES
Week of June 14

Public Events/Special Events

Downtown Thursday Nights Begin
- Museum Open Until 8 p.m.

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell
  Thursday 5 p.m. LH2

Running Club
- Wednesday 5 p.m.
  Meets at West Door

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS

Call or stop by the Human Resources office for discounted movie tickets for Loews/Cineplex Odeon/Sony Theatres for only $5. (Check your newspaper to make sure discounted tickets may be used for your movie.) THERE IS AN EIGHT-WEEK DELAY FOR STAR WARS TICKETS.

Attention all staff: change in web address

Beginning this week, we will begin using the following web address in our marketing, PR and publications materials:

www.fieldmuseum.org

Please plan to incorporate this new address into any materials you are preparing. A few notes:

- The www.fmnh.org address will continue to work.
- E-mail addresses are not changing for now. They will continue to go through fmnh.org.
- When business cards are reprinted, they will have the www.fieldmuseum.org address on the back.

Submitted by **Nancy Petchenik**

Environmental Intern to research Museum's paper usage

Danielle Neuhauser has been hired as The Field Museum's environmental intern for the summer. She is from Chicago, but has been in the Environmental Studies program at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin for two years. Her primary task will be to examine paper usage in the building, develop strategies to reduce paper consumption or increase recycling, and explore other types of paper which could be used.

Working with the Facilities Advisory Group, Danielle will follow the "paper trail" through the building, tracking how paper arrives, how it is used, and how it leaves. She will be following all kinds of paper, not just letter-size copy paper. She will also be tracking the recycling we do during Cleanup Week II in July.

With your help, Danielle will be able to come up with a good analysis of the Museum's environmental impact and offer progressive solutions. She will be contacting department representatives individually as she compiles her report. Danielle can be reached at ext. 7763 or dneuhauser@fmnh.org.

Submitted by the Facilities Advisory Group

Some quick mile markers from the paper trail

Do you know how much paper is used in The Field Museum, and discarded in the trash? Well, thanks to **Ali Obaidallah**, Director of Housekeeping, we have some interesting facts about the amount of sanitary paper used in the building.

Every year, the Museum orders 1,428 sheets of soft wipes, 1,248,000 paper towels, 30,000 rolls of regular toilet paper, and 1,824 rolls of economy sized toilet paper. The good news is that all of this paper has at least 70% post-consumer recycled content. The bad news, however, is that it cannot be put into the recycling system and will go into a landfill.

Submitted by **Bill Stanley**

New practice regarding Founders' Room keys

In the past several weeks, many individuals (unaware of the Founders' Room schedule) have signed out the Founders' Room key through the Security console. This has not only caused the room to be double-booked, but it has meant individuals are using the room without being informed about security guidelines.

Beginning immediately, anyone requesting the Founders' Room key from the Security console will be asked to present confirmation of a reservation before obtaining the key. The confirmation will be in the form of a printed-out e-mail from me to the individual reserving The Founders' Room stating that he or she may request the key from Security.

We hope this will resolve the problem of unintentional double-bookings. If you have questions regarding The Founders' Room, please call me at ext. 7288.

Submitted by **Janet Young**

The Field Museum

President's Address

Tuesday 29 June

last names beginning A–M
9.00 am – 10.00 am

coffee and bagels
10.00 am

last names beginning N–Z
10.30 am – 11.30 am

Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall

Richard Lauchman, Ph.D.

Using E-mail for Effective and Efficient Communication

IN THE BUSINESS world, more and more details are being transmitted via E-mail. That's both good news and bad news.

"E-mail messaging is highly efficient, but many corporate employees send E-mail messages they wouldn't dream of sending in a memo or saying to someone face to face," says Richard Lauchman, Ph.D., a principal of the Lauchman Group in Washington, D.C., and author of *Write for Results*. "And when hasty writing is combined with the attitude that E-mail is impermanent and not as important as the printed word, messages are sent that are poorly written and likely to be misinterpreted."

According to Lauchman, "the medium of E-mail differs from that of memos and reports. Using it effectively and appropriately requires becoming aware of some unique constraints."

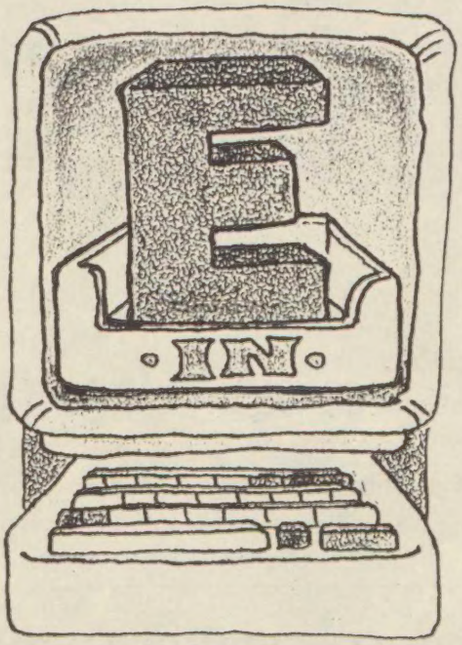
E-MAIL ESSENTIALS

Here are some of Lauchman's tips on how to write effective E-mail:

▩ *Take it seriously.* "Just because the medium is used to send jokes and extraneous communications doesn't let you off the hook when it comes to business communication," says Lauchman. "The best approach is to use E-mail cautiously and to carefully consider your message and your relationship to the reader before you send it."

▩ *To emphasize a sentence, let it stand alone.* This is the best way to ensure that a sentence will be emphasized and paid attention to. Even if your E-mail application allows you to boldface or italicize on your screen, there's no guarantee that such graphics will show up on the recipient's screen.

"Strange things happen on the Internet," says Lauchman. "More often than not, formatting changes get filtered out and text reverts to a default setting on the recipient's computer, and all your graphics disappear."



THE BOTTOM LINE:

▶ To use E-mail effectively: write short paragraphs, come to the point quickly, write clearly and proofread messages before you send them.

▩ *Keep paragraphs short.* Lengthy paragraphs complicate reading in any medium, but especially on a computer screen.

▩ *Skip a line instead of indenting when beginning a new paragraph.* Doing so will more clearly indicate the separation of topics, increase white space and make the text easier to read.

▩ *Send it to the right people.* The Internet makes it easy to broadcast yourself and your ideas indiscriminately, but people usually are annoyed when they receive information that isn't relevant to them. Target your audience and send only E-mail messages that you know the person is interested in or that contain information he or she needs to know.

▩ *Take extra care with the subject line* by being precise and accurate. In most E-mail applications, only about the first 20 characters or so of the subject lines fit in the Inbox's "subject" box. Readers scan the subject line to decide whether your message is relevant to them and worth reading.

▩ *Come to the point.* "If you're not used to being direct—to revealing the main idea early—then doing so may seem awkward, curt or abrupt to you," says Lauchman. "Your readers will thank you for it, though, because the point is the first thing they look for. If you provide paragraphs of background, your readers may either scan or ignore them anyway."

▩ *Be sure E-mail is the best way to send your message.* Weigh the benefits of sending messages via E-mail or voice mail in terms of efficiency.

▩ *Use humor cautiously—it can backfire.* An E-mail reader can't hear your voice, look at your face or see your gestures and discern that you're joking.

▩ *Check your spelling and punctuation* and always make sure your message is written well. At a minimum, this means paying close attention to the mechanics of language, such as spelling, capitalization and punctuation.

"Sloppy writing reflects a sloppy mind, and that's as true in E-mail as it is anywhere else," says Lauchman. "Minor errors not only distract the reader from your E-mail message, they suggest it doesn't need to be taken seriously."

VOD 944

Barbara Floria spoke with Richard Lauchman, Ph.D., a principal of the Lauchman Group in Washington, D.C., and author of *Write for Results*, book and CD-ROM, Amacom, 1998, $39.95.

VitaWisdom: The only place where success comes before work is in a dictionary. *Vidal Sassoon*

VITALITY IS PRINTED ON PAPER CONTAINING AT LEAST 10% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED FIBERS

HOW TO USE YOUR MAILBOX

Inside the office:

1. Dial 7055 and wait for system to answer with your recorded name.
2. Enter your password.

Outside the office:

1. Dial (312)665-7055 and wait for system to answer.
2. During system greeting press (#) key.
3. Enter your mailbox extension followed by your password.

Call Anita (ext. 7944) for copies of instructions on:

- Reviewing messages
- Sending a copy of a message
- Replying to messages
- Replying by calling
- Sending messages
- Changing your mailbox greeting
- Establishing an extended absence greeting
- Changing your password
- Creating/changing personal distribution lists
- Recording a new mailbox name

SECURITY SERVICES UPDATES

Security emergency number update

All staff should please note that the number to call when contacting Security in any emergency is **7999**. Do not call the number listed for the "Emergency Phone Console" or the number for the "Emergency Phone First Aid," as these are part of the backup phone system and are not for routine use. Use 7999 for all emergencies, including medical assistance/first aids.

New card readers on Public Relations door from North elevator

Card readers have now been installed on both sides of the door from Public Relations to the North elevator. Anyone who has access to other elevator doors now has access to this door. The pushbutton locks have been removed. If you are going to the second floor via the this elevator, make sure you have your keycard.

Submitted by **Ron Cundiff**

GROUP SALES STAFF DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please make the following changes to your Departmental Staff Directory:

Group Sales Fax	665-7601
Laurie Sanders	665-7303

Submitted by **Laurie Sanders**

What To Bring / How to Dress

- long pants
- long sleeve shirt (to avoid scratches, mosquito bites and possibly poison ivy)
- shoes (that can get wet and muddy)
- Friends' will supply gloves and trash bags

Other good things to have:

- drinking water
- hat/sunscreen
- insect repellent

Youth and School Groups

About half of last year's River Rescuers were under 18-years-old. Youth and school groups can adopt a River Rescue site on their own, or join others at an existing site. Permission slips will be required from the parents of people who are under 18-years-old.

What is Chicago River Rescue Day?

Chicago River Rescue Day will take place on Saturday, June 26, 1999 at sites throughout the Chicago River Watershed (See map). Rescue Day activities include trash pick-up along banks and in stream, as well as planting and ecological restoration. Work will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon. A picnic for all participants will be held at River Park in Chicago, located along the Chicago River North Branch at 5100 N. Francisco. There will be food, beverages, entertainment and educational activities from noon until 3:30 p.m. There will be a special River Rescue Day on May 22 for schools. These sites are indicated with an * on the site list.

e a Friend!

elp your River by participating in River Rescue Day or by ecoming a member of Friends of the Chicago River. lembers receive discounts on Friends' walking tours, canoe ips, and river cruises, and participate in stream bank anting and advocacy. Members also receive Friends' uarterly newsletter. Friends of the Chicago River's mission to foster the vitality of the Chicago River for the human, lant and animal communities.

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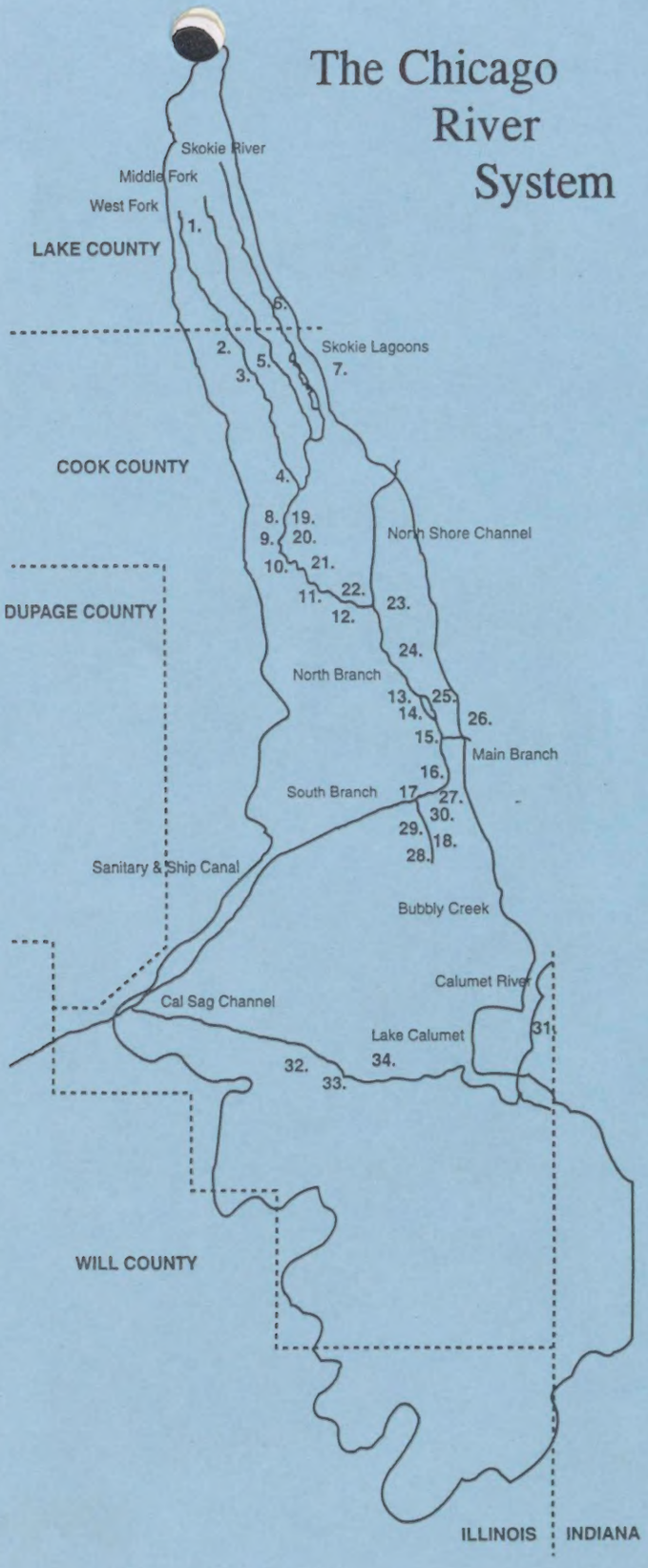
Present

Chicago River Rescue Day 1999

Saturday June, 26 1999

The Chicago River System



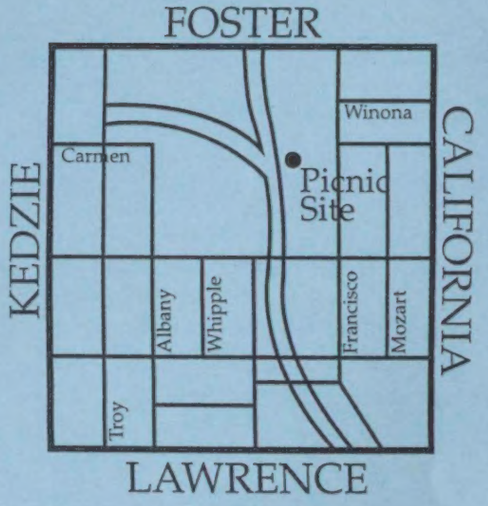
River Rescue Day 1999 Sites

Take a look at the list of sites and their locations, find one near you or your group. Individuals can sign up by calling the **Site Captain**-- he or she is your main contact for the event. To find out more about rescue sites call the Friends' office at (312) 939-0490 to speak to Danielle Barfield.

1. Prairie Wolf Slough, Bannockburn • Call Friends (312)939-0490
2. * Meadowhill South Park, West Fork- Northbrook • Mike Piskel & Bud Mathieu
3. Kraft Foods, Glenview • Barbara Lapp (Kraft Employees Only)
4. Linne Woods, Morton Grove- U.S. 14 (Dempster Street) • Call Friends (312)939-0490
5. Middle Fork, Chipilly Woods, Northbrook • Scott Ingersoll (847)509-1557
6. Skokie Lagoons, North Shore Channel - Ecology Center- 2024 N. McCormick-Linda Lutz(847)864-5181
7. * Skokie River at Happ Road, Northfield - Willow Road & Hibbard Road • Bill Koenig (847)439-9793 (Skilled Canoeist Only!!!)
8. * Miami Woods, Morton Grove - Jim Vondriska
9. * LaBagh Woods, Chicago • Jim Doyiakos
10. Central Park & River - Carmen & Argyle • Call Friends
11. * Eugene Field • Steve Arnam
12. Wilson and Lawrence • Colleen Gallegher (773)478-8040
13. Clark Park- Belmont & Rockwell • Bill Donahue (773)286-3703
14. Fullerton & River (Chewing Gum Trail) • Paul Goodman, IAEP, (312)742-0376 &(773)549-8344
15. Allied Metals (Allied Employees Only)
16. Lawrence Fisheries/Premium Plastics
17. * Canal St. & River • Bob Kusler
18. Ashland Ave. on Bubbly Creek (CTA Orange line stop) Call Friends (312)939-0490
19. Caldwell & Oakton, Niles • Vic Hurtowy (773)777-1489
20. Gompers Park, Chicago • Tony Watrobinski (773)736-6920 & Jim MacDonald (773)736-1051
21. Lincoln Village Shopping Center • Mark Sorteberg (773)528-8955
22. * Kimball & River • Call Friends (312)939-0490
23. Kedzie & River (Carmen & Foster) • Tom Morris (773)478-8040
24. Berteau & River - Berteau & Montrose• Pete Leki (773)463-8968
25. Lathrop Homes • Jose Villella (773)348-1866
26. Goose Island • Call Friends (312)939-0490
27. Throop St. & River • Call Friends (312)939-0490
28. Bubbly Creek, Chicago • (Safety Kleen Employees Only)
29. Acme Motor Freight- 33rd St. & Iron St. & River • Hank Kuspa (Acme Employees Only)
30. * Origins Park • Drew Hart (312)744-5472
31. Wolf Wildlife Wetlands, Oak Lawn - 109th St & Lavergne• Larry Scinto (708)425-1224
32. Lake Katherine, Palos Heights - 7402 Lake Katherine Drive Bill Banks & Tina Rossi (708)361-1873
33. Navajo Creek, Palos Heights • Kurt Leslie (708)361-8921
34. Ann St. at Cal-Sag Channel, Blue Island -James St & Ann Street • Bob Gronko (708)389-7957

* Work at these sites will only occur on May 22

Chicago River Rescue Day
Picnic Site, River Park
5100 N. Francisco



River Park

The Picnic

The Picnic will be held at River Park, beginning at noon and concluding around 3:30 p.m. Volunteers from sites around the region will come together to recognize their accomplishments and take part in a river celebration. There will be food, canoe trips, walking tours and other fun activities that will help to educate people about river issues. Parking is available on city streets for free or pay at the Swedish Covenant Hospital Parking Garage located at 5145 N. California Ave.

Call Danielle Barfield at the Friends' office at (312)939-0490 to find out how you can be part of Chicago River Rescue Day 1999.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Wadwha, Heim present at lunar and planetary science conference

The 1999 Lunar and Planetary Science Conference recently held in Houston marked the 30th Anniversary of this conference, the first of which was held in 1970 soon after the first batch of Moon rocks were returned from NASA's Apollo 11 mission. Highlights of this year's conference included early reports on new spacecraft missions (in particular, the Mars Global Surveyor, which is returning spectacular images, as well as topographic relief and magnetic data from the Red Planet), and several exciting new developments in meteoritics research that are being driven by evermore sensitive analytical techniques (such as high resolution imaging and high precision mass spectrometry). **Meenakshi Wadhwa** presented a talk on timescales of melting and core formation on asteroids, using high precision mass spectrometry techniques. **Noel Heim**, a Field Museum intern (University of Chicago undergraduate) who has been working with Meenakshi on a project on an unusual asteroidal basalt, presented a poster.

Simpson teaches fossil prep class in Madagascar

Bill Simpson spent a week in Madagascar teaching a lab on fossil preparation at the Université d'Antananarivo. He arrived on May 22 with five huge duffels full of prep equipment ($500 excess baggage charges), which will remain at the University to form the core of a permanent fossil prep lab there. The class was attended by 24 students, mostly paleo grad students. Bill reports that the group was very hard-working and attentive, and that "we all had a great time." Half the class was devoted to doing mechanical preparation, and the other half on molding and casting. Bill stayed with **Steve Goodman** while in Madagascar, and advises that Steve took very good care of him. Bill's travel and the prep equipment was funded by Steve's MacArthur Foundation grant. Bill will return to Madagascar in July to do fieldwork with **John Flynn**.

Bieler honored for DMNH board service

Rüdiger Bieler (Zoology) just returned from the Delaware Museum of Natural History where he attended a strategic planning retreat of the DMNH board. During the event, he was formally honored for "distinguished service" during his two terms (eight years) as trustee on the DMNH board of directors. Rüdiger, who had been a curator and acting director of Wilmington's natural history museum before joining The Field Museum, was elected to the DMNH board in 1991. He has since been actively involved in that museum's governance and has for many years served as the chair of the board's collection and research committee.

Goodman returns from Madagascar, South Africa

Steve Goodman recently returned from a 10-month trip overseas. Most of the time he was on Madagascar, where he continues his activities associated with biological inventories, giving courses at the Université d'Antananarivo, and coordinating a program at the local WWF office for the advancement of young Malagasy scientists.

In early August 1998 he took part in a workshop held in Cape Town, South Africa, focusing on conservation priorities for Africa and Madagascar. He was a member of the local organizing committee for the International Primatological Society meeting which was held in Antananarivo in mid-August. Late August saw him again in South Africa attending the International Ornithological Congress in Durban. Thereafter, together with several other people from The Field Museum and the South African Museum, he participated in a biological inventory of a site in the Drakensburg Mountains of Kwa-Zulu Natal Province.

Steve is in Chicago for the months of June and July. During this period several of his colleagues from the Université d'Antananarivo will visit The Field Museum to work in the collections and on collaborative projects. The visitors include Daniel Rakotondravony, Bernardin Rasolonandrasana, and Rodin Rasoloarison. Steve and his colleagues will head back to Madagascar in July.

Let's become more media savvy!

Lately there have been some mix-ups concerning media, so please note:

• If you are contacted directly by a reporter requesting an interview, always contact Public Relations before granting the interview. We will review the request, and discuss the story idea with the reporter/producer. This helps us plan our message and (hopefully) avoid surprise questions. It's also important for PR to be aware of your contact with media because we record all such activity and obtain print clippings and audio/video tape. While many of you are media savvy and we all strive to promote the Museum, it's disconcerting to read or hear an interview with a staff member when PR had no prior knowledge of it.

• Also, if you know that media will be in the building *for any reason*, please contact PR. Sometimes media come here for reasons other than reporting stories. However, we can still give them information about exhibitions and programs, planting the seeds for future coverage.

• Finally, if your department holds an event here in conjunction with another organization, be sure to check whether the other organization plans to issue a press release and/or invite media. If so, PR must review the organization's release/media invitation before it is issued to make sure information about the Museum is stated correctly. This also helps us prepare more thoroughly for possible coverage. (Social functions for outside groups arranged by the Special Events Department are exempt from PR's review of press releases and/or media invitations).

Thanks for your cooperation.

Submitted by **Nancy O'Shea**

FAN MAIL

Dear **Dr. Kusimba** (**Chap**, if I may),

Hello! Do you remember an interview you gave to me, Teya Kelley, on April 6? (Jacksonville HS student, paper on "curator", archaeology)I certainly do. It is a rare pleasure to meet someone so interesting as you. I mulled a particularly long time over the idea of man's evolution with the wildlife of Africa. I knew the facts of course, but never stopped to think why there would be such a deep bond. I profoundly apologize for the time it took me to get this letter to you. Thank you ever so much for your time, your help, and your insight. I know that you had to take time out of an already very full day on rather short notice for my sake. You should know that your information was invaluable to me. I finished my paper just recently. I got a "that's nice" and a smile, then had to move onto the next project. See – I'm in training already! I also signed up to take a field ecology class this summer through my school; I've heard that it's a lot of fun. I'm going to visit my grandmother again in early June, with a chance to finish seeing the museum. I'll wave if I see you! Thank you again, sir. I'm more than pleased to have made your acquaintance.

Sincerely,
Teya Kelley

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 7286, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Education Department (ext. 7547, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!